## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for creating a tree having a plurality of nodes and a plurality of objects associated therewith, each object having a plurality of attributes, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting, by a user, the attributes in accordance with the user's preference; and creating the tree in accordance with the selected attributes.

- 2. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying the tree.
- 3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein when one of the tree nodes is selected by the user, all of the objects associated with at least that node are also displayed.
- 4. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of associating a new object with one of the tree nodes.
- 5. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of associating a modified object with one of the tree nodes.
- 6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein a node is added to the tree when an object requiring that node has been added or modified.
- 7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein a node is deleted when objects requiring that node no longer exist.
- 8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the user selects a node to operate upon the objects associated with the selected node.

- 9. A method according to Claim 8, wherein the user selects two or more nodes to operate upon all objects associated with the selected nodes.
- 10. A method associated with Claim 1, wherein the attributes may be inherent or derived.
- 11. A method for displaying a plurality of objects of a tree having a plurality of nodes, said method comprising the steps of:

associating the plurality of objects with the node, each object having a plurality of attributes, wherein the objects associated with any one of the nodes is a superset of objects associated with lower nodes; and

applying a filter to each lower node in successive fashion so that only those objects contained in a higher node that have an attribute matching the node attribute are displayed.